

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 14783 220743Z
ACTION EA-09

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R 220659Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3142
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
FBIS OKINAWA
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJECT: INVESTIGATIONS IN KWANGTUNG AND YUNNAN

SUMMARY: BROADCASTS RECEIVED FROM KWANGTUNG AND YUNNAN
INDICATE THAT PURGES ARE PROBABLY UNDERWAY IN BOTH OF THE
PROVINCES AND THAT CENTRAL CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN
PROVINCIAL POLITICS. A YUNNAN DAIL EDITORIAL HAS AGAIN
VOICED IMPATIENCE WITH LOCAL RADICALS AND THEIR REFUSAL TO
COME FORWARD AND CONFESS THEIR CRIMES, SUGGESTING THAT
CENTRAL MAY NOT HAVE ITS WAY IN LIMITING THE SCALE OF
INVESTIGATIONS IN THE PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDRESSING A MASS RALLY HELD IN KWANGTUNG ON DECEMBER
16, CCP FIRST SECRETARY WEI KUO-CHING BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE
NEED FOR LENIENCY IN TREATMENT OF PROVINCIAL SUPPORTERS OF
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PAGE 02 HONG K 14783 220743Z

THE GANG OF FOUR. SECRETARY CHIAO LIN-YI, ON THE OTHER HAND,
LAID HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE "SERIOUS" NATURE OF THE SABOTAGE
COMMITTED BY THE RADICALS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS, AND CALLED
UPON THE MASSES TO "THOROUGHLY CRITICIZE AND TOTALLY DISCREDIT
THEM." CHIAO SAID THAT THEY MUST "RESOLUTELY TRACK DOWN
POLITICAL RUMORS AND REACTIONARY POSTERS" AND "DEAL RESOLUTE

BLOWS AT THEIR CREATORS," SUGGESTING THAT SOME UNREST IS STILL BREWING IN THE AREA. CHIAO'S LANGUAGE ALSO INDICATED THAT FACTIONAL ELEMENTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE TREATED LENIENTLY BY LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS.

2. YUNNAN WEIGHED IN ON A SIMILAR THEME AND AGAIN EXPRESSED OFFICIAL IMPATIENCE AT THE REFUSAL OF LOCAL RADICALS TO COME FORWARD AND CONFESS THEIR CRIMES (HK 14511). A DECEMBER 15 YUNNAN DAILY EDITORIAL NOTED WITH DISPLEASURE THAT SOME OF THE "FEW FOLLOWERS OF THE GANG" IN YUNNAN ARE "EVEN TODAY STILL WAITING TO SEE WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS" IN AN ATTEMPT TO "EVADE THE CRUCIAL ISSUES." THE EDITORIAL FURTHER NOTED THAT DISSIDENTS ARE CURRENTLY "ESTABLISHING TIES" AND RESORTING TO FACTIONALISM, AND THAT THE PROVINCE MUST "ADOPT THE NECESSARY MEASURES" VIS A VIS THE RADICALS. HERE AGAIN THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REDEMPTION, BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THIS IS A MEANINGFUL OFFER. IN STEPPING UP THE "INVESTIGATIONS," THE CADRES ARE URGED NOT TO BE "SOFT-HANDED" IN THEIR DEALINGS.

3. THE KWANGTUNG RALLY ALSO REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER "IMPORTANT DOCUMENT FROM THE PARTY CENTER." CONVEYED BY FIRST SECRETARY WEI, THE DOCUMENT APPEARS TO CONTINUE THE EFFORT TO RE-WRITE A PORTION OF PARTY HISTORY BY STRESSING MAO'S CONCERTED ATTEMPTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS TO EDUCATE AND REFORM THE GANG. THE REVELATION SEEMS TO TARNISH THE CHAIRMAN'S IMAGE, THOUGH, BY TACITLY ADMITTING THAT MAO HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY HIS OVERLY AMBITIOUS WIFE AND HER COHORTS. THIS VEILED CRITICISM OF MAO MAY WELL HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR HIS "PERSONALLY CHOSEN" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 14783 220743Z

SUCCESSOR HUA.

4. IN REVEALING THAT INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY IN BOTH KWANGTUNG AND YUNNAN AND THAT STERN ACTION WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY UNLESS THE RADICAL ELEMENTS CAPITULATE, IT APPEARS THAT CENTRAL MAY BE HAVING PROBLEMS IN GETTING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF "NARROWING TARGETS" AND ACTING LENIENTLY TOWARD THOSE FOLLOWERS OF THE GANG WHO ARE REDEEMABLE.
CROSS

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